

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed on May 28, 2008. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 6-9, 16-20, 34, 47, and 49 are currently pending.

Claim Objections

At page 5 of the Office Action, claim 9 was objected to for depending on a cancelled claim. Applicant has amended claim 9 to depend from claim 6.

At paragraph 13 of the Office Action, claims 2, 17, 19, and 20 were objected to as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Representative claim 2 discloses “wherein the step of associating further comprises producing a result representing a remainder upon dividing the IP ID by the number of active links.” The claim states an additional step is performed during the associating step. The additional step further limits claim 6. There is no disclosure in claim 2 that the step in claim 2 is performed instead of the associating step in claim 6. Accordingly, claims 2, 17, 19, and 20 are allowable over the objection because each claim adds at least one more step that is performed as part of a stated step in the independent claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

At page 1 of the Office Action, claims 2, 6-8, 16-20, and 34 were deemed allowable.

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 47 and 49 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicant has amended the claims into independent format and believes the claims are allowable.

At page 5 of the Office Action, claim 9 was objected to for depending on a cancelled claim. Applicant has amended claim 9 to depend from claim 6 and believes the claim to be in condition for allowance.

In the event that the Examiner deems personal contact desirable in disposition of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at (617) 951-3067.

All independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims are dependent from independent claims which are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, all dependent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account
No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,

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